INSTALLATION OF SOFTWARE PATCH FB*3.5*4

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides instructions for the installation of patch FB*3.5*4 for the Medicare payment methodology into the Fee Basis program for non-VA physician services associated with outpatient and inpatient care provided at non-VA facilities.

2. POLICY: Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.56, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to use the Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS). Adoption of this change is intended to establish reimbursement rate consistency among federal health benefits programs to ensure that amounts paid to physicians better represent the relative resource inputs used to furnish a service.

3. ACTION

   a. The Chief Information Officer Field Office (CIOFO) will release VistA patch FB*3.5*4 to all facilities in September 1999. This patch contains the functionality to introduce into the Fee Basis software program the Medicare payment methodology. This patch replaces all direct global reads of the CPT package files with use of supported application program interfaces (APIs). This patch also modifies the Multiple Payment Entry option to prevent an undefined error.

   b. Facility directors must ensure that the patch is installed no later than 10 days after receipt.

   c. Payments affected will be those with dates of service on or after September 1, 1999.

4. REFERENCE: Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations 17.56 revised as of July, 1999.

5. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: Health Administration Service (10C3) is responsible for the content of this directive.

6. RESCISSION: This VHA Directive will expire on December 30, 1999.

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THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES DECEMBER 30, 1999